

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

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INFO OTP WASHDC

JCS/J6 WASHDC

DCA WASHDC

MCEB WASHDC

CINCLANT

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, NATO

SUBJ: PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL ELCROVOX SECURE VOICE EQUIPMENTS

REF: NICSMA-D/45

BEGIN SUMMARY: MISSION HAS CONSISTENTLY ACTED ON BASIS THAT US OPPOSES PROCUREMENT OF MORE THAN ABOUT 50 ADDITIONAL ELCROVOX SECURE VOICE EQUIPMENTS. ALLIED REPS ARE APPLYING HEAVY PRESSURE FOR US TO AGREE TO 300 MORE. RECENT INFRASTRUCTURE P AND P COMMITTEE ACTION NECESSITATES FIRM US POSITION. MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE BEFORE JUNE 11, 1975. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION HAS CONSISTENTLY ACTED ON BASIS THAT THE US OPPOSES PROCUREMENT OF MORE THAN ABOUT 50 ADDITIONAL ELCROVOX SECURE VOICE EQUIPMENTS FOR PSVP. MOST RECENT ACTION WAS US RESER-
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VATION ININFRASTRUCTURE P AND P COMMITTEE ON PROPOSAL TO GRANT ADDITIONAL EXTENSION OF FUNDS IN SLICE XXIII FOR PROCUREMENT OF NEXT INCREMENT OF 250 EQUIPMENTS. EFFECT IS TOSUBJECT THESE FUNDS TO AUTOMATIC DELETION PROCEDURE, US INTENT BEGIN TO

MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO HELP COVER COST INCREASE OF INITIAL VOICE SWITCHED NETWORK (IVSN) ACCESS SWITCHES.

2. USNATO REPS ARE COMING UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE FROM ALLIED COUNTERPARTS TO AGREE TO FURTHER PROCUREMENT. FOLLOWING ARE SOME ALLIES' ARGUMENTS AND USNATO REBUTTALS:

A. ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO, US AGREED IN NJCEC TO A MAXIMUM OF 550 SECURE VOICES EQUIPMENTS FOR NICS STAGE I. THAT AGREE-MENT SHOWS US WILLINGNESS TO MAKE FURTHER PROCUREMENT. RE-BUTTAL: US RECOGNIZES THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL SECURE VOICE EQUIPMENT, BUT THIS REQUIREMENT MUST TAKE ITS PLACE AMONG OTHERS IN THE COMPETITION FOR FUNDS. ADDITIONAL SECURE VOICE EQUIPMENT IS LESS URGENT THAN SOME OTHER NICS REQUIREMENTS.

B. AT MARCH 1973 MEETING, NJCEC AGREED THAT PROCUREMENT OF QUANTITY BEHOND INITIAL 250 SHOULD AWAIT RESULTS OF STUDIES ON NICS NODES AND NICS DIGITALIZATION. ALTHOUGH THESE STUDIES HAVE NOT REACHED ULTIMATE CONCLUSION, RESULTS TO DATE SHOW NEED FOR ELCROVOX WELL INTO 1980S. NJCEC RECOGNIZED THIS FACT IN ENDORSING NICSMA-D/45 (REF A) FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. RE-BUTTAL: NICSMA PLANS TO PROCURE FIRST NODAL SWITCHES IN 1980/81, AND THESE LIKELY WILL HAVE DIGITAL CAPABILITY. THEREFORE, PROLIFERATION OF ELCROVOX IS NOT PRUDENT.

3. MISSION HAS SO FAR SKIRTED A SHOW-DOWN SITUATION, BUT RE-SERVATION IN INFRASTRUCTURE P AND P COMMITTEE MAKES ONE IMMINENT. FURTHER, NICSMA HAS BEEN STALLING WORK ON TYPE B ESTIMATE FOR NEXT INCREMENT OF ELCROVOX ANTICIPATING US REFUSAL TO SUPPORT FURTHER BUY OF THIS EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT (APPROACHING \$100 THOUSAND PER STATION WHEN INSTALLED AS PART OF PSVP). MISSION NOW NEEDS FIRM US POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

4. IN MISSION'S VIEW, ISSUE REDUCES TO QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL SECURE VOICE EQUIPMENT OUTWEIGHS THE HIGH COST TO PROVIDE IT. CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF NODAL SWITCHES EARLY IN 1980S, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT US NOT SUPPORT PROCUREMENT BEYOND A TOTAL OF ABOUT 300 ELCROVOX SECURE VOICE EQUIPMENT (I.E., ABOUT 50 MORE TO SATISFY SPECIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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REQUIREMENTS RECENTLY SURFACED FOR NATO HEADQUARTERS AND THE NATO FLANKS). REQUEST GUIDANCE BEFORE JUNE 11, 1975 TO PREPARE US REP FOR INFRASTRUCTURE P AND P COMMITTEE DISCUSSION. BRUCE

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